

February 26, 2013

I am the mother of a 44 year old severely autistic nonverbal son who has been living at the Hartford Regional Center since the age of 25. Our family has always been an advocate for our son and active in his life.

A State run facility has always been our choice for our son's care due to State workers longevity on the job.

It is obvious the problem is a money issue between State versus private workers as far as who should take care of our loved ones. Many of our handicapped population cannot speak for themselves so it is easy to pick on the most vulnerable.

Due to money as far as who makes the most hourly wage is such an unfortunate reason to ruin good programs that have worked for so long. State workers are career workers in most cases while a private worker getting much less in hourly wages will never offer the longevity and continuity care that is necessary in our State facilities.

Saving money by closing State run home is a poor example for tightening our State budget.

Our children deserve a quality of life in a family center with people they relate to rather than a constant turnover of staff.

Much wasted money in our State is ignored and not looked into and would be a good first step in solving our State's budget problems. Picking on the most vulnerable is a heartless solution for so many dependent people.

As a tax payer for many years I resent who are being targeted as a first step in our budget problems and hope there are legislators who understand the stress this is causing so many residents and their families.

We certainly should save State run facilities and also the choice of private homes. Eliminating State workers that offer wonderful care to our most severe handicapped residents should not be a budget solution.

Respectively Submitted,
Lorraine A. Mullooly
EAST HARTFORD